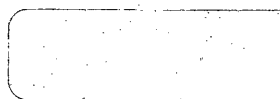




The President's Daily Brief

Sunday Late 3:04 71



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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

SUNDAY CABLE
3 October 1971

COMMUNIST CHINA

Peking appears to be making some effort to head off an intensification of rumors about the leadership situation. In rapid succession, Chou hosted a special State Council reception on the evening of 1 October and a banquet for Sihanouk in Peking at noon yesterday. The politburo members in attendance were all leaders who had already made previous appearances since mid-September. There is still no information on the status of Mao, Lin Piao, or the important military leaders on the politburo who have been out of sight since 10 September.

The official Chinese press account of the State Council reception on 1 October, which was sponsored by the recently formed "Cultural Group" of the central government, provides some further indications that the political stock of Mao's wife, Chiang Ching, is on the decline. The broadcast revealed that a veteran party official not known to be particularly close to Madame Mao has been named as head of the group. In recent years the regime has consistently emphasized Chiang Ching's pre-eminence in the cultural field, and it was logical that either she or one of her close associates would be named to the post. Moreover, despite the fact that Chiang Ching was noted as being present at the reception, her name was conspicuously absent from the list of high-level officials who mingled with the guests.

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SOUTH VIETNAM

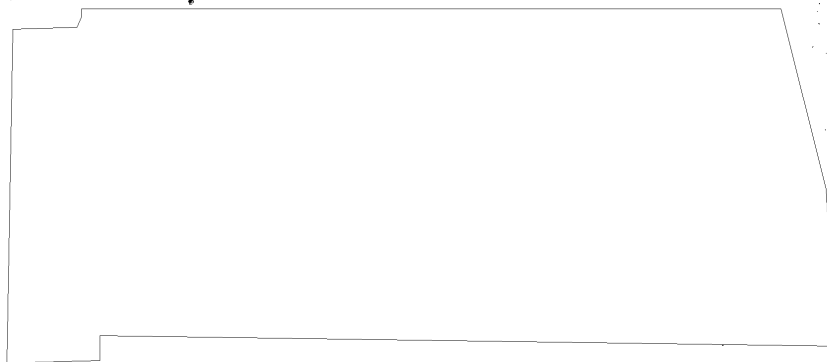
On the eve of the election, minor anti-government demonstrations continued in Saigon and several other cities, but they were contained relatively easily by police. Ky, who has been encouraging the anti-election protests, is said to be planning to try to prolong the agitation beyond election day. On the military side, good weather has helped South Vietnamese reinforcements to retain the initiative against several Communist regimental formations which have been attacking fire bases and field positions along the Cambodian border northwest of Saigon. Elsewhere in South Vietnam, the military situation remains generally quiet.

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CAMBODIA



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